

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 9, 11, and 14-22 are pending.

Early and favorable issuance of a first office action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

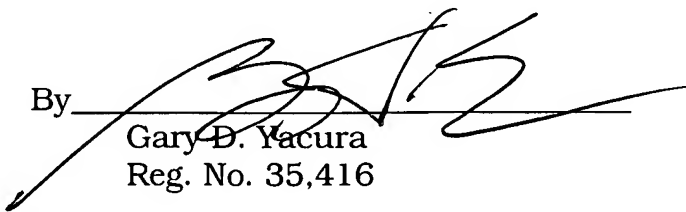
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By



Gary D. Yacura
Reg. No. 35,416

GDY:jcp

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000